

REMARKS

Claims 23-30 are pending. Claims 23, 24, 26, 27, and 31 are amended herein. No new matter is added as a result of the amendments.

103 Rejections

Claims 23-30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Koo. (US 6,006,337). Applicants have reviewed the Koo reference and respectfully submit that the embodiments of the present invention as are set forth in Claims 23-31 are neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Koo.

The Examiner is respectfully directed to independent Claim 23 which is drawn to an apparatus. Claim 23 is reproduced below in its entirety for the convenience of the Examiner.

23. An apparatus, comprising:

an integrated circuit comprising state machine circuitry capable of generating one or more signals to operate a CD-ROM drive and play audio CDs, said integrated circuit further comprising circuitry capable of isolating said digital computer bus from said CD-ROM drive.

Independent Claim 26 contains limitations similar to those contained in Claim 23. Claims 24-25 and 31 and Claims 27-30 depend from independent Claims 23 and 26 respectively and set forth additional limitations of the claimed invention.

Koo does not anticipate or render obvious the embodiments of the invention that are set forth in Claims 23-31. A shortcoming of the Koo reference is that it does not teach or suggest

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each of the limitations of Claims 23 and 26 (from which Claims 24-25 and 31 and Claims 27-30 depend respectively). More specifically, Koo does not teach or suggest an apparatus that includes “circuitry capable of isolating the digital computer bus from the CD-ROM drive” as is set forth in Claims 23 and 26 (from which Claims 24-25 and 31 and Claims 27-30 depend respectively).

Koo discloses a very dissimilar computer system. Koo is concerned with the provision of two power modes controlled by a switch in the computer system. More specifically, Koo discloses that a switch 52 is used to determine whether a main power or a CD-power is supplied to the computer system. However, Koo does not teach the recited circuitry capable of isolating a digital computer bus from a CD-ROM drive.

It is important to note that Koo is concerned with the manner in which power is supplied to a CD-ROM drive via a power distribution infrastructure. Koo discloses two modes of supplying power to CD-ROM drive 48 and is not concerned with the isolation of system bus 41 from CD-ROM drive 48. Koo discloses that system bus 41 is employed to carry “data, commands and interrupt signals..” among the various devices of the computer. It should be appreciated that the purpose of a power distribution infrastructure is very different from the purpose of a system bus. In particular, the purpose of power distribution infrastructure is to support the distribution of power to various components of a system as opposed to carrying data, command or interrupt signals.

It is respectfully submitted that Koo discloses no point at which the CD-ROM drive is isolated from system bus 41. The Examiner has equated the isolating of the supply of power to a CD-ROM (which does not involve isolating the system bus which provides data, commands etc.

to the CD-ROM) with the isolating of the CD-ROM drive from a system bus as is required to meet the limitations of Applicant's Claims. It should be appreciated that isolating the supply of power to a CD-ROM drive (as disclosed by Koo) and isolating the CD-ROM drive from a system bus (as set forth in Applicants' Claims) are fundamentally different operations. As such, equating these operations is improper as the operations are functionally divergent and thus the equating of them is bereft of a legitimate factual or logical basis. To be clear, operations that are fundamentally different have been improperly equated by the Examiner and provide the basis of the current rejection.

Importantly, it is respectfully submitted that nowhere in the Koo reference is there disclosed an apparatus that includes the circuitry capable of isolating the digital computer bus from the CD-ROM drive as is set forth in Claims 23 and 26.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of Claims 23 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is improper and that Claims 23 and 26 are in condition for allowance. Consequently, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 24-25 and 31 and Claims 27-30 dependent on Claims 23 and 26 respectively are likewise in condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

SUMMARY

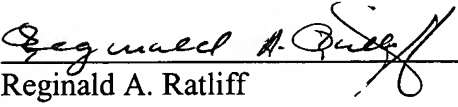
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the Application and allowance of the pending Claims.

If the Examiner determines the prompt allowance of these Claims could be facilitated by a telephone conference, the Examiner is invited to contact Reginald A. Ratliff at (408) 938-9060.

Respectfully submitted,

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